

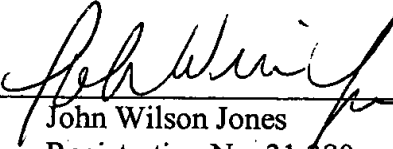
the addition of a surfactant or emulsifier to an aqueous polyurethane dispersion. In the claims of Applicants, the aqueous dispersion of the prepolymer is formed in the presence of the anionic surfactant. None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose the formation of a dispersion of a polyurethane prepolymer in the presence of an anionic surfactant.

**Declaration of Bedri Erdem, Ph.D.** In the attached Declaration of Bedri Erdem, Ph.D., Dr. Erdem reports on a study conducted under his direction and control which illustrates that the addition of water and anionic surfactant to a previously formed prepolymer renders unexpected results over the process wherein an anionic surfactant is added to a previously formed polyurethane dispersion. In particular, Dr. Erdem concludes that the claimed method of the invention renders a stable polyurethane dispersion whereas the process of adding an anionic surfactant to a previously formed polyurethane dispersion does not render a stable dispersion.

In view of the amendments filed on May 29 and the accompanying Declaration of Bedri Erdem, Ph.D. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to promptly issue a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should it be deemed prudent to expedite examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

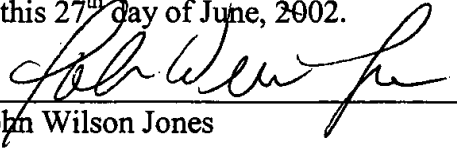
Dated: June 27, 2002

  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2002.

  
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John Wilson Jones